communication unit in an active state is set in a disconnected state.

B4 Cont

53. (Amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein the first communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard, and wherein the second communication unit conforms to one of a RS-232C standard, a RS-422 standard, and a USB standard.

54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the imaging apparatus is a video camera.

55. (New) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the imaging apparatus is a video camera.

B5

56. (New) A method according to claim 51, wherein the imaging apparatus is a video camera.

57. (New) A method according to 53, wherein the imaging apparatus is a video camera.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 23, 2001. Claims 28, 32-35, and 46-57 are pending in this application, with Claims 28, 32-35, and

46-53 having been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 11, 14-17, and 43-45 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and new Claims 54-57 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 28 and 42 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,061 (Nakatsugawa). Claims 15-17, 28, 32-35, and 42-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakatsugawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,373 (Rosenberg et al.). Cancellation of Claims 11-14-17 and 43-45 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that independent Claims 28 and 42, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 28 is directed to an imaging apparatus. The apparatus includes a first communication unit, which conforms to a first communication system, a second communication unit, which conforms to a second communication system different from the first communication system, and a control unit. The control unit sets the second communication unit in a passive state if the first communication unit is set in an active state, and sets the first communication unit in a passive state if the second communication unit is set in an active state.

One important feature of Claim 28 is that the control unit controls the settings of the first and second communication units, such that when one is set to an active state the other

is set to a passive state. Support for this feature is set forth in the specification at, for example, pages 32-35 and pages 44-46.

Nakatsugawa relates to a system that allows digital data having different communication speeds to be mutually communicated via a common data transfer line.

Rosenberg et al. relates to a system for controlling force feedback using an interface device manipulated by a user. Apparently, Rosenberg et al. teaches that forces exerted by a user of a joystick are sensed, and sensor data is used to describe position information for an object controlled by the joystick.

Applicants submit that a combination of Nakatsugawa and Rosenberg et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest an imaging apparatus that includes "a control unit, which sets said second communication unit in a passive state if said first communication unit is set in an active state, and sets said first communication unit in a passive state if said second communication unit is set in an active state," as recited in Claim 28.

As understood by applications, both Nakatsugawa and Rosenberg et al. disclose a communication apparatus equipped with at least two kinds of communication units. Apparently, the communication units are always set in an active state. Therefore, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the control unit of Claim 28.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 28 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claim 42 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 28, and is believed to be patentable for at

least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 28.

The other claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants
LOCK SEE YU-JAHNES
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 218670 v 1

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

Claims 11 and 14-17 have been canceled.

28. (Twice Amended) [A communication] An imaging apparatus comprising:

a) a first [communicating means] communication unit, which conforms to a first communication system;

b) a second [communicating means] communication unit, which conforms to a second communication system different from [said] the first communication system; and

c) a control [means for setting] unit, which sets said second [communicating means] communication unit in [an active mode when an external device is disconnected from said first communicating means] a passive state if said first communication unit is set in an active state, and sets said first communication unit in a passive state if said second communication unit is set in an active state.

32. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said first [communicating means] communication unit conforms to an [IEEE1394] IEEE 1394 standard.

33. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a RS-232C standard.

34. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a RS-422 standard.

35. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a USB standard.

42. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling [a communication] an imaging apparatus that includes a first [communicating means] communication unit, which conforms to a first communication system, and a second [communicating means] communication unit, which conforms to a second communication system different from the first communication system, comprising the steps of:

[a control step of setting the second communicating means in an active mode when an external device is disconnected from the first communicating means]

setting the second communication unit in a passive state if the first communication unit is set in an active state; and

setting the first communication unit in a passive state if the second communication unit is set in an active state.

Claims 43-45 have been canceled.

46. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said control [means sets said second communicating means in a passive mode when the external device is connected to said first communicating means] unit sets said first communication unit in an active state if said second communication unit in an active state is set in a disconnected state, and sets said second communication unit in an active state if said first communication unit in an active state is set in a disconnected state.

47. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim [28, wherein said second communicating means conforms to a USB standard] 46, wherein said first communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard, and wherein said second communication unit conforms to one of a RS-232C standard, a RS-422 standard, and a USB standard.

48. (Amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein the first [communicating means] communication unit conforms to an IEEE1394 standard.

49. (Amended) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a RS-232C standard.

50. (Amended) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a RS-422 standard.

51. (Amended) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to a USB standard.

52. (Amended) A method according to claim 42, [wherein said control step includes a setting step of setting the second communicating means in a passive mode when the external device is connected to the first communicating means] further comprising the steps of:

setting the first communication unit in an active state if the second communication unit in an active state is set in a disconnected state, and

setting the second communication unit in an active state if the first communication unit in an active state is set in a disconnected state.

53. (Amended) A method according to claim 42, wherein the first communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard, and wherein the second [communicating means] communication unit conforms to one of a RS-232C standard, a RS-422 standard, and a USB standard.